

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Claim 1. A device for providing support, compression, and warmth to the patellar tendon of a knee, the device comprising an elastic sleeve having a circumferential length and opposite interior and exterior surfaces; a compressible tubular member having first and second opposite ends and secured along the circumferential length of the sleeve; first and second straps secured adjacent the exterior of the sleeve and generally diametrically across the sleeve from the tubular member, the first strap having a hook surface and an adjacent loop surface and being secured adjacent the exterior surface of the sleeve at a first attachment point and the second strap having a hook surface and an adjacent loop surface and being secured adjacent the exterior surface of the sleeve at a second attachment point located generally adjacent to the first attachment point so that the first and second straps may be positioned to extend in generally opposite directions around the exterior circumference of the sleeve, a first strap closure member secured adjacent the exterior surface of the sleeve and positioned between the first attachment point and the first end of the tubular member; and a second strap closure member secured adjacent the exterior surface of the sleeve and positioned between the second attachment point and the second end of the tubular member, wherein the device is positionable on the knee so that the tubular member is generally oriented across a front portion of the knee adjacent the patellar tendon and the device may be tensioned to provide compression and support to the patellar tendon by (1) exerting a first force on the first strap and

passing the first strap through the first strap closure member and folding the first strap back to secure the hook material and the loop material of the first strap together to maintain application of the first force and (2) exerting a second force on the second strap and passing the second strap through the second strap closure member and folding the second strap back to secure the hook material and the loop material of the second strap together to maintain application of the second force.

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Claim 2. The device of claim 1, wherein the sleeve comprises a length of elastic fabric material having the ends sewn together to form seam, with the portion of the sleeve adjacent the seam contoured to fit comfortably below the back of the knee.

Claim 3. The device of claim 1, wherein the first and second strap closure members each comprise a length of fabric material having the ends thereof attached to sleeve to form a loop and a D-ring encircled by the loop.

Claim 4. The device of claim 1, wherein the sleeve has a circumference in an unstretched state of from about 3 to about 4 inches less than the circumference of the knee of the user on which the device is to be positioned.

Claim 5. A device for providing support, compression, and warmth to the patellar tendon of a knee, the device comprising an elastic sleeve, a compressible tubular member secured along a circumferential length of the sleeve; first and second straps secured adjacent the exterior of the sleeve and generally diametrically across the sleeve from the tubular member; and first and second strap closure members for securing the straps in a tensioned state.

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